

# *Low Impact Development*

“The LID Picture and How to  
Make it Happen”

October 22, 2003

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Environmentally and  
Economically Sustainable  
Technology

# Water Resources – Why LID?



- **Water Supply**
- **Wastewater**
- **Stormwater**
  - **Flood Control**
  - **Ecological Health**
  - **Human Use**
  - **Regulations**

# *Low Impact Development (LID)*

*Stormwater Management*

*Ecosystem Based Functional Design*

“Uniformly Distributed Small-scale Controls”

“Integration of Controls with Sites, Streets and Architecture”

\* Low Cost & Low Impacts \*

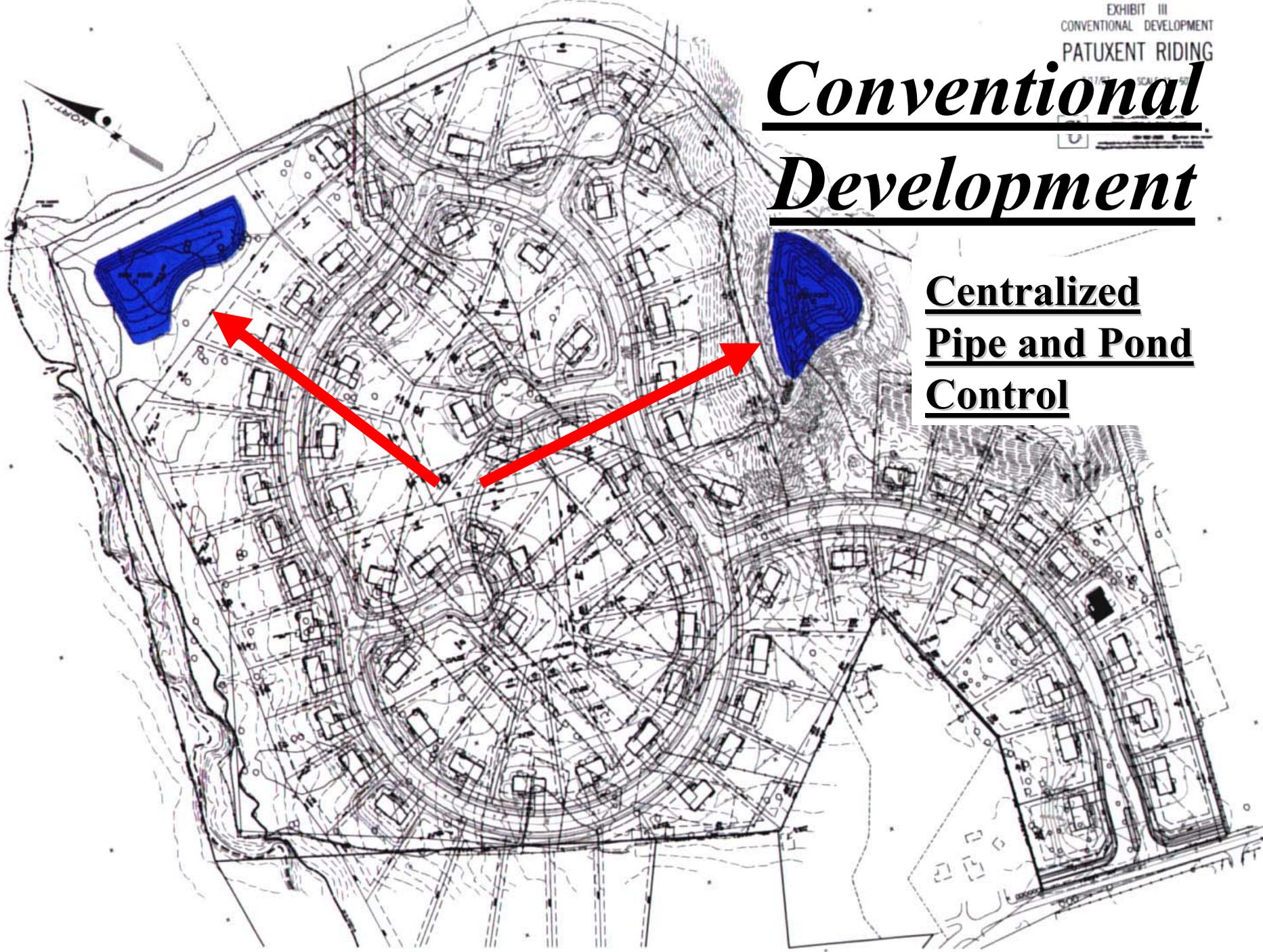
Prince George's County, MD

**LID National Design Manual 1999**

“Centralized versus Decentralized Controls”

# Conventional Development

Centralized  
Pipe and Pond  
Control

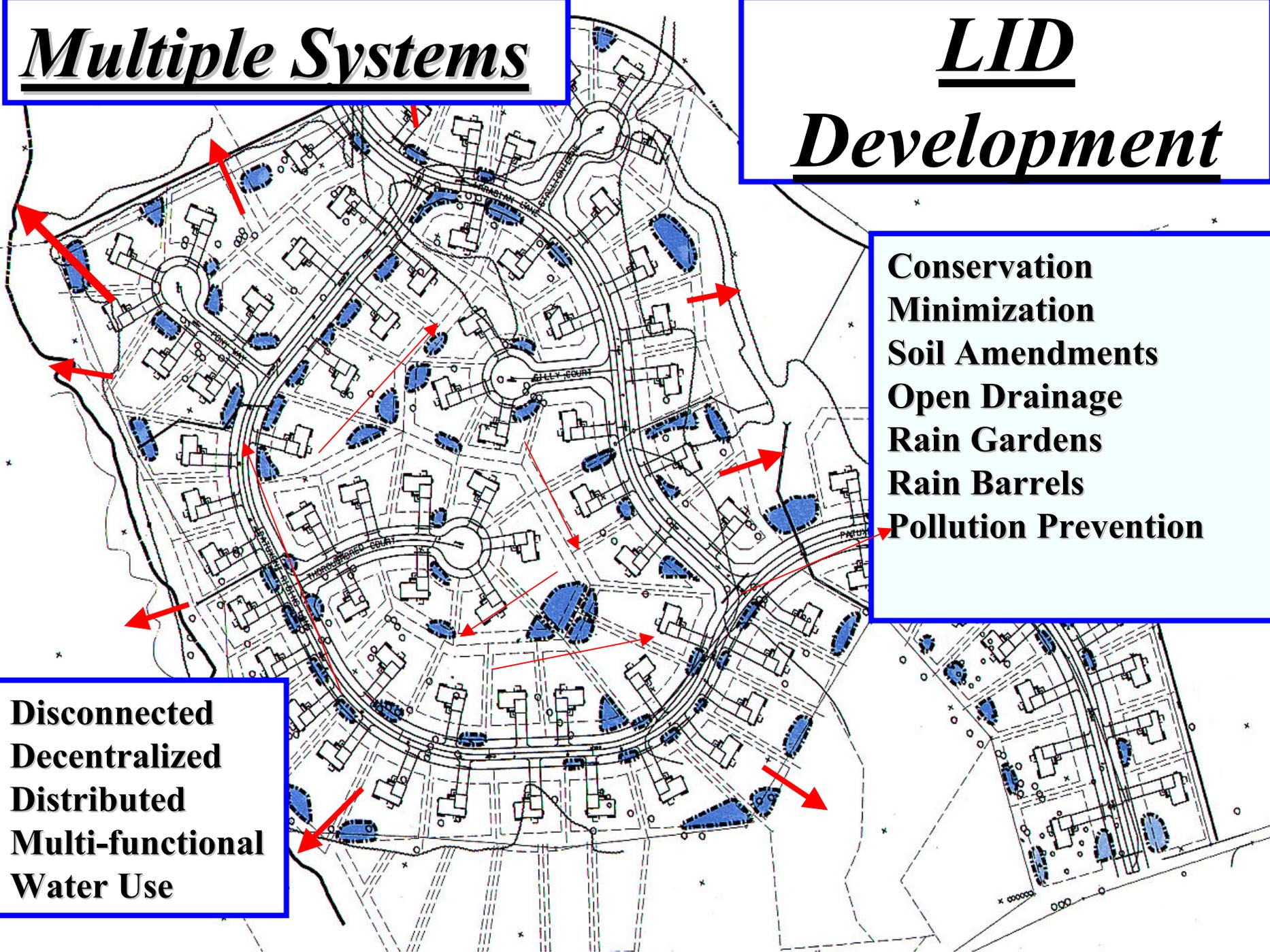


# Multiple Systems

# LID Development

**Conservation**  
**Minimization**  
**Soil Amendments**  
**Open Drainage**  
**Rain Gardens**  
**Rain Barrels**  
**Pollution Prevention**

**Disconnected**  
**Decentralized**  
**Distributed**  
**Multi-functional**  
**Water Use**





**Conventional**



**Low Impact**



**Good Drainage**



**Functional Landscape Design**

# LID – Examples of Where and Who

- Chesapeake Bay Watershed
- Great Lakes States
- Washington
- Oregon
- New England
- Florida
- Minnesota
- Pennsylvania
- New Jersey
- Delaware
- North Carolina
- New Zealand
- Australia
- ASCE
- EPA
- NRDC
- NAHB
- Harvard Design School
- Universities
- Watershed Groups
  - Rappahannock
  - Upper Nuse
  - Chagrin
- Professional Groups
- Consultants
- DOT's
- U.S. Congress

# *Emerging Technology Debate*

**Centralized**

**Versus**

**Decentralized Controls**

# *Important Concepts*

- Terrestrial / aquatic ecosystem linkages
- Ecosystem Functions
- Using Nature to Mitigate Its Own Forces
- Mimic the water balance
- Hydrology as an organizing principle
- Multiple Systems
- Volume / Frequency / Timing
- Ecological functions of the built environment

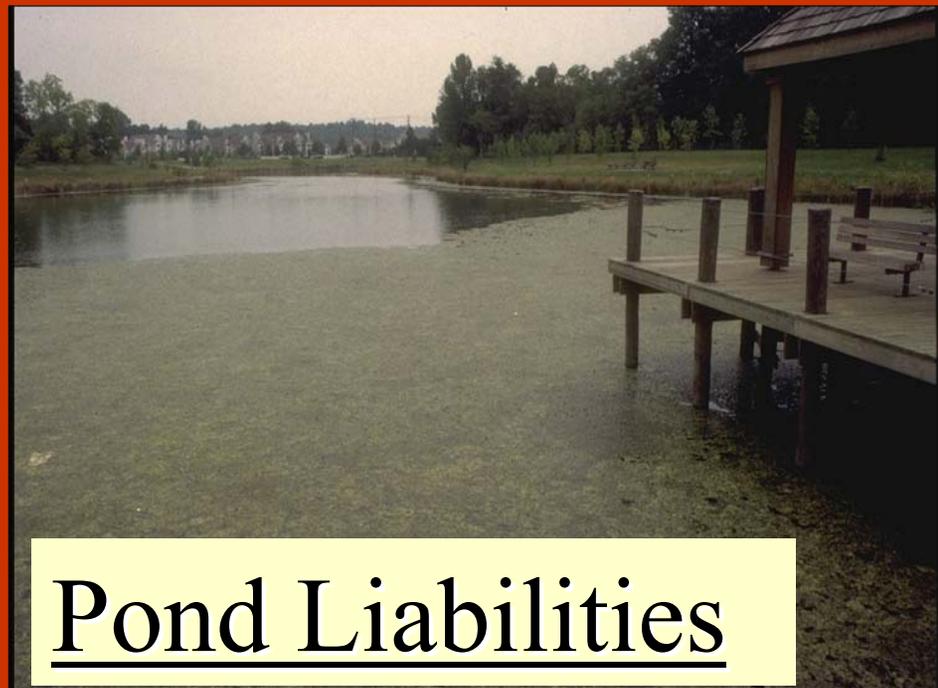
# *Paradigms Shifts*

- Watersheds to **Ecosystems**
- Flow Centric to **Volume Centric**
- Centralized Control to **Decentralized Control**
- Uni-functional to **Multifunctional**
- Impact Reduction to **Functional Restoration**
- Good Drainage to **Functional Drainage**
- One Size Fits All to **Unique Ecosystem Design**

# *Limitations of Conventional Stormwater Approaches*

- Economics
  - Cost of Maintaining a Growing / Aging Infrastructure
- New Objectives (Public Health / Ecological)
  - Source Water, CSO's, Living Resources / Streams
  - Regulations
    - NPDES / TMDL's / ESA

# Maintenance



# Pond Liabilities

## Limitations

- Safety / Health
- Inspection / Maintenance
- Inefficient Pollutant Removal
- Temp / Sediment / Frequency / Volume

## Safety



# *Limitations of Conventional Stormwater Approaches*

- Technology Gaps
  - Cumulative impacts
  - Not an anti-degradation strategy
  - Allows hydrodynamic modifications
  - Allows continued stream degradation
  - Limited use for urban retrofit
  - Unsustainable maintenance burdens

# Issues

**West Nile Virus**

**Safety**

**Maintenance**



*Your understanding of the state of  
technology is key to:*

- Setting Goals
- Prioritizing protection / restoration strategies
- Determining cost of protection programs
- Promoting / discouraging development

*“Technology can be Apolitical”*

# LID Basics

Principles  
and  
Practices

***It's not what but***  
***how you do it!***

- Hydrologically Functional Designs
- Increasing Assimilative Capacity
- Multifunctional / Beneficial Landscape and Architecture

**LID Provides Powerful New tools for**  
**Urban Stormwater Management**



# How Does LID Maintain or Restore The Hydrologic Regime?

- **Creative ways to:**
  - **Maintain / Restore Storage Volume**
    - interception, depression, channel
  - **Maintain / Restore Infiltration Volume**
  - **Maintain / Restore Evaporation Volume**
  - **Maintain / Restore Runoff Volume**
  - **Maintain Flow Paths**
- **Engineer a site to mimic the natural water cycle functions / relationships**

# *Key LID Principles* “Volume”

## *“Hydrology as the Organizing Principle ”*

- Unique Watershed Design
  - Match Initial Abstraction Volume
  - Mimic Water Balance
- Uniform Distribution of Small-scale Controls
- Cumulative Impacts of Multiple Systems
  - filter / detain / retain / use / recharge / evaporate
- Decentralized / Disconnection
- Multifunctional Multipurpose Landscaping & Architecture
- Prevention

# Defining LID Technology

## Major Components

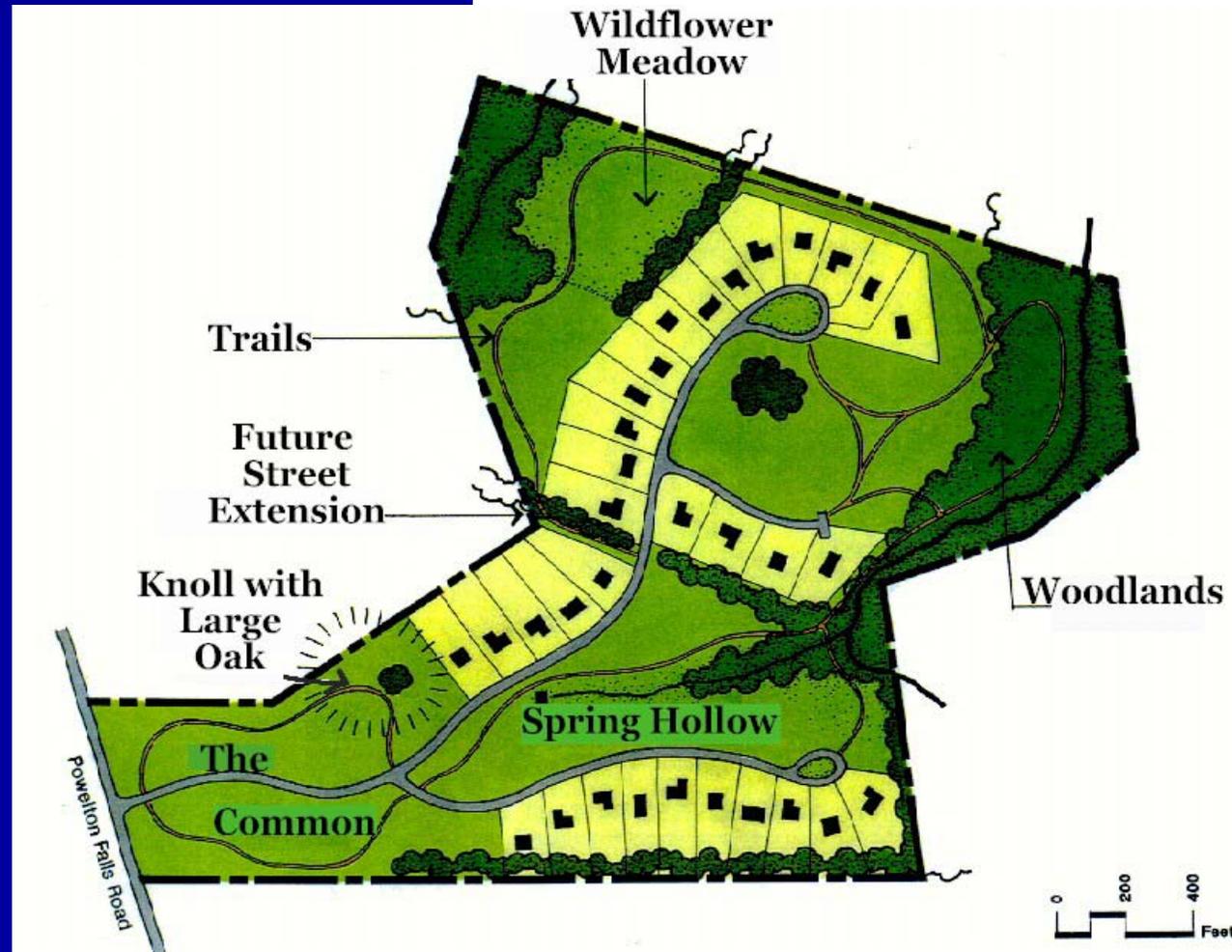
1. Conservation (Watershed and Site Level )
2. Minimization (Site Level)
3. Strategic Timing (Watershed and Site Level)
4. Integrated Management Practices (Site Level)  
**Retain / Detain / Filter / Recharge / Use**
5. Pollution Prevention  
**Traditional Approaches**

# 1. Conservation Plans / Regulations

- **Local Watershed and Conservation Plans**

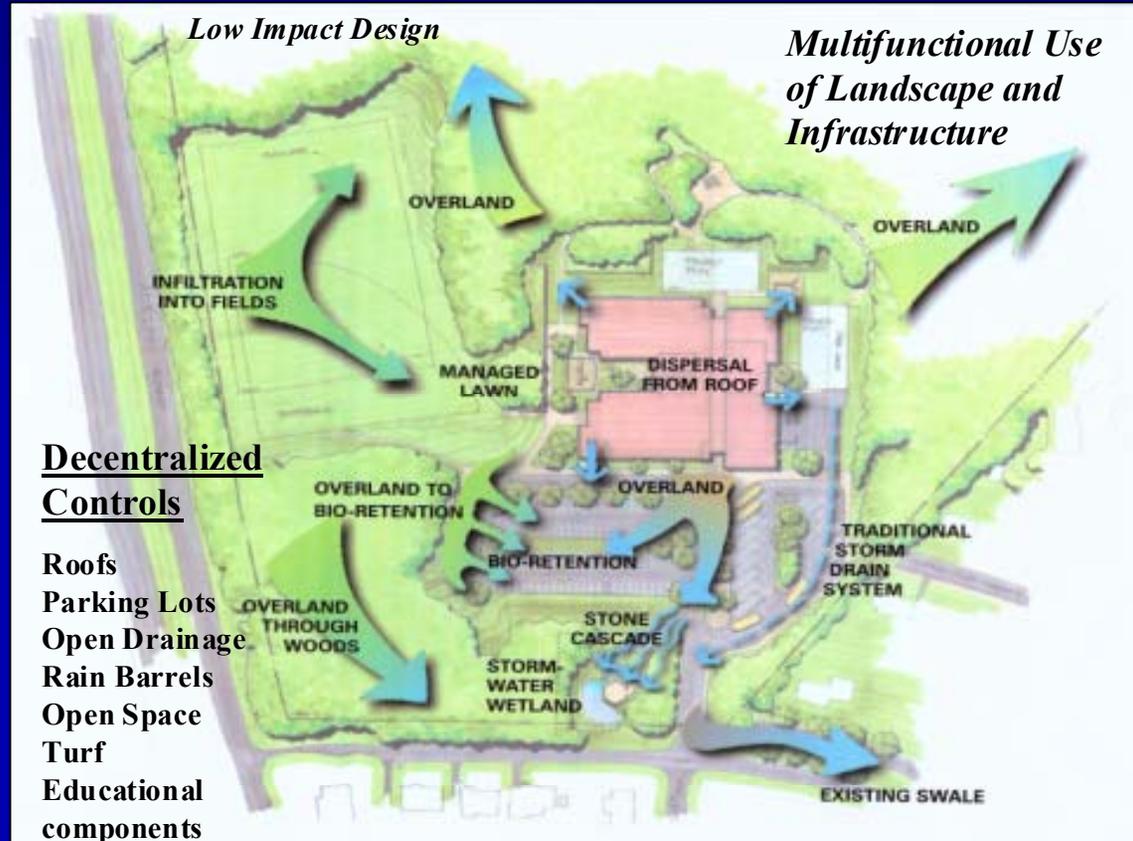
- Forest (Contiguous and Interior Habitat)
- Streams (Corridors)
- Wetlands
- Habitats
- Step Slopes
- Buffers
- Critical Areas
- Parks
- Scenic Areas
- Trails
- Shorelines
- Difficult Soils
- Ag Lands
- Minerals

## *Large and Small Scale*



## 2. Minimize Impacts

- Minimize clearing
- Minimize grading
- Save A and B soils
- Limit lot disturbance
- \* Soil Amendments
- Alternative Surfaces
- Reforestation
- Disconnect
- Reduce pipes, curb and gutters
- Reduce impervious surfaces



# 3. Maintain Time of Concentration

- **Open Drainage**
- **Use green space**
- **Flatten slopes**
- **Disperse drainage**
- **Lengthen flow paths**
- **Save headwater areas**
- **Vegetative swales**
- **Maintain natural flow paths**
- **Increase distance from streams**
- **Maximize sheet flow**



# 4. Storage, Detention & Filtration

## “LID IMP’s”

- **Uniform Distribution at the Source**

- **Open drainage swales**
- **Rain Gardens / Bioretention**
- **Smaller pipes and culverts**
- **Small inlets**
- **Depression storage**
- **Infiltration**
- **Rooftop storage**
- **Pipe storage**
- **Street storage**
- **Rain Water Use**
- **Soil Management\*\***

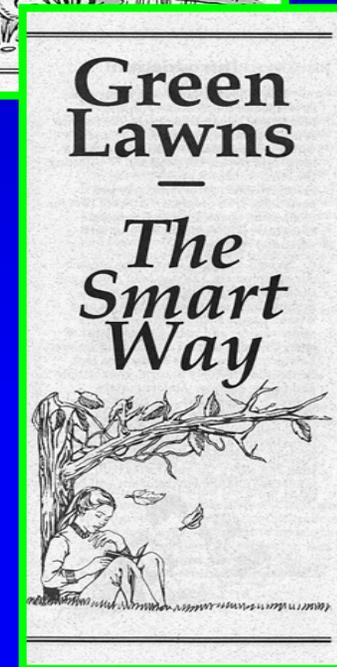
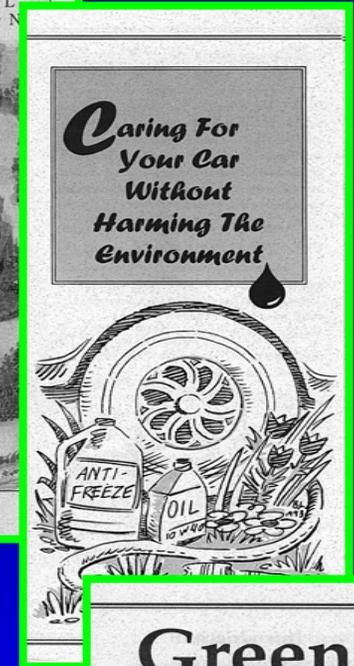
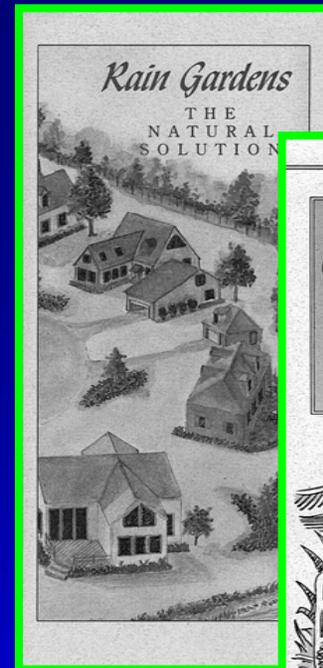


# 5. Pollution Prevention

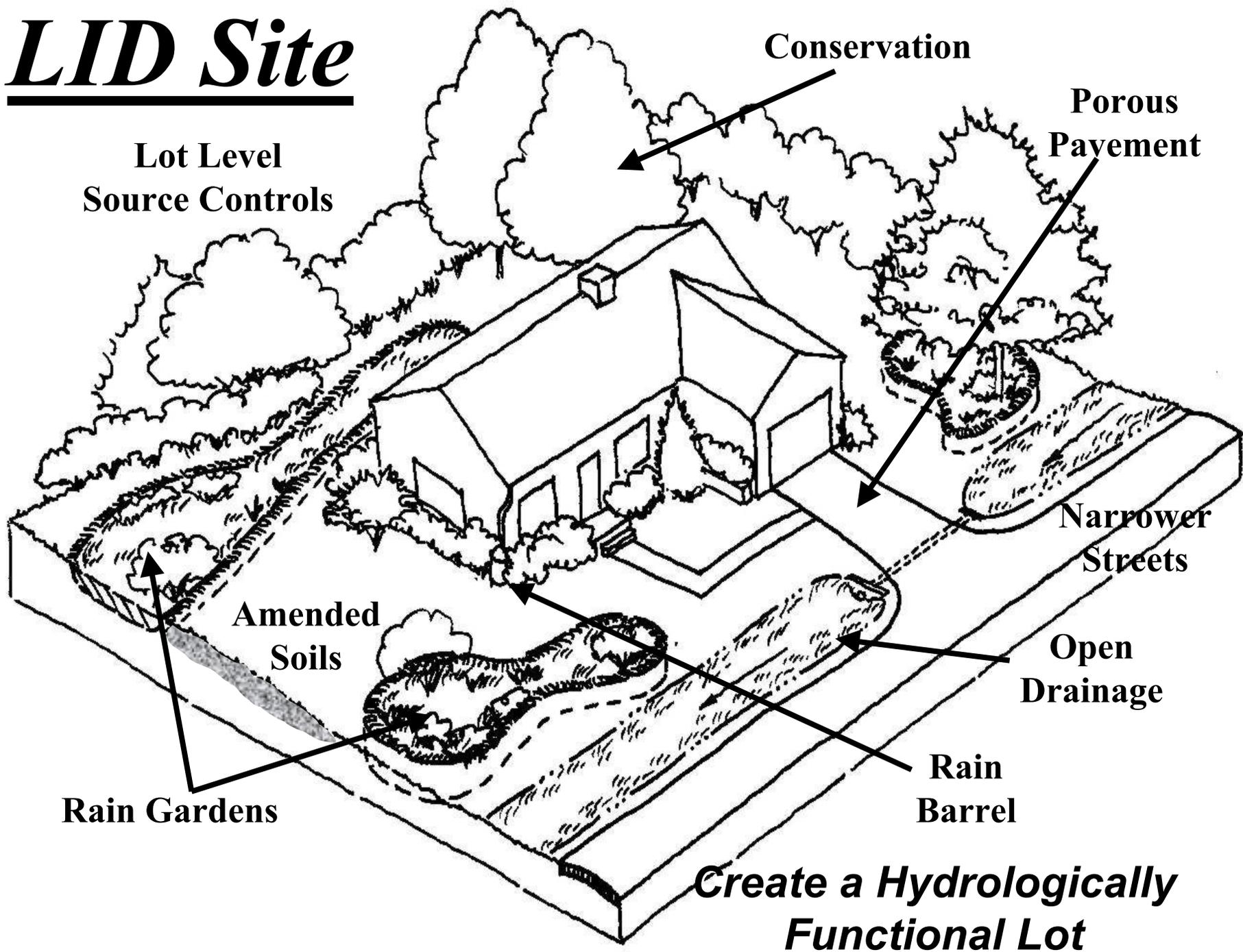
*30 - 40% Reduction in N&P*

*Kettering Demonstration Project*

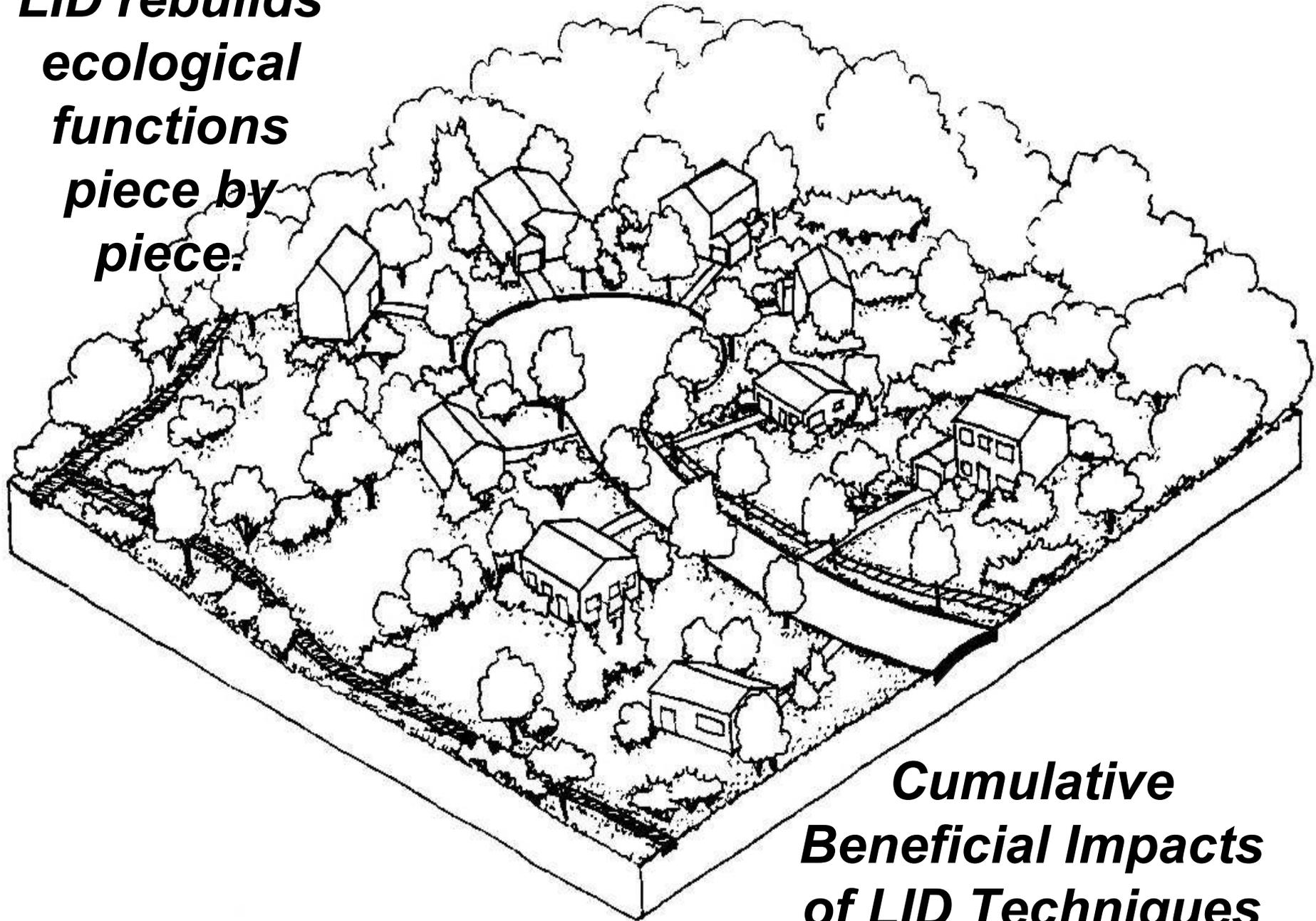
- Maintenance
- Proper use, handling and disposal
  - Individuals
    - Lawn / car / hazardous wastes / reporting / recycling
  - Industry
    - Good house keeping / proper disposal / reuse / spills
  - Business
    - Alternative products / Product liability



# *LID Site*



***LID rebuilds  
ecological  
functions  
piece by  
piece.***



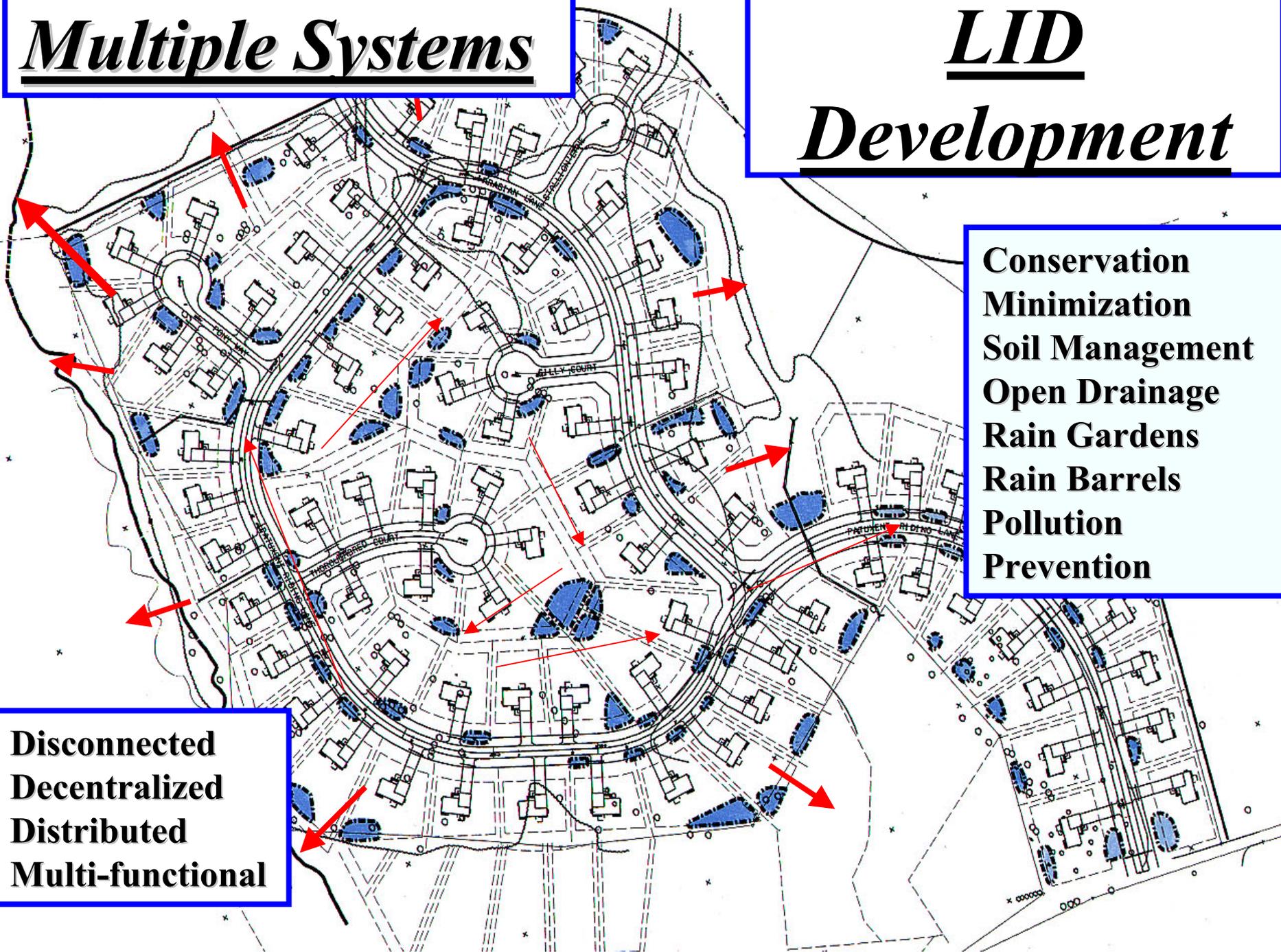
***Cumulative  
Beneficial Impacts  
of LID Techniques***

# Multiple Systems

# LID Development

**Conservation  
Minimization  
Soil Management  
Open Drainage  
Rain Gardens  
Rain Barrels  
Pollution  
Prevention**

**Disconnected  
Decentralized  
Distributed  
Multi-functional**



# Construction Cost Comparison

|                    | Conventional       | Low Impact       |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Grading/Roads      | \$569,698          | \$426,575        |
| Storm Drains       | \$225,721          | \$132,558        |
| SWM Pond/Fees      | \$260,858          | \$ 10,530        |
| Bioretention/Micro | —                  | \$175,000        |
| Total              | <u>\$1,086,277</u> | <u>\$744,663</u> |
| Unit Cost          | \$14,679           | \$9,193          |
| Lot Yield          | 74                 | 81               |







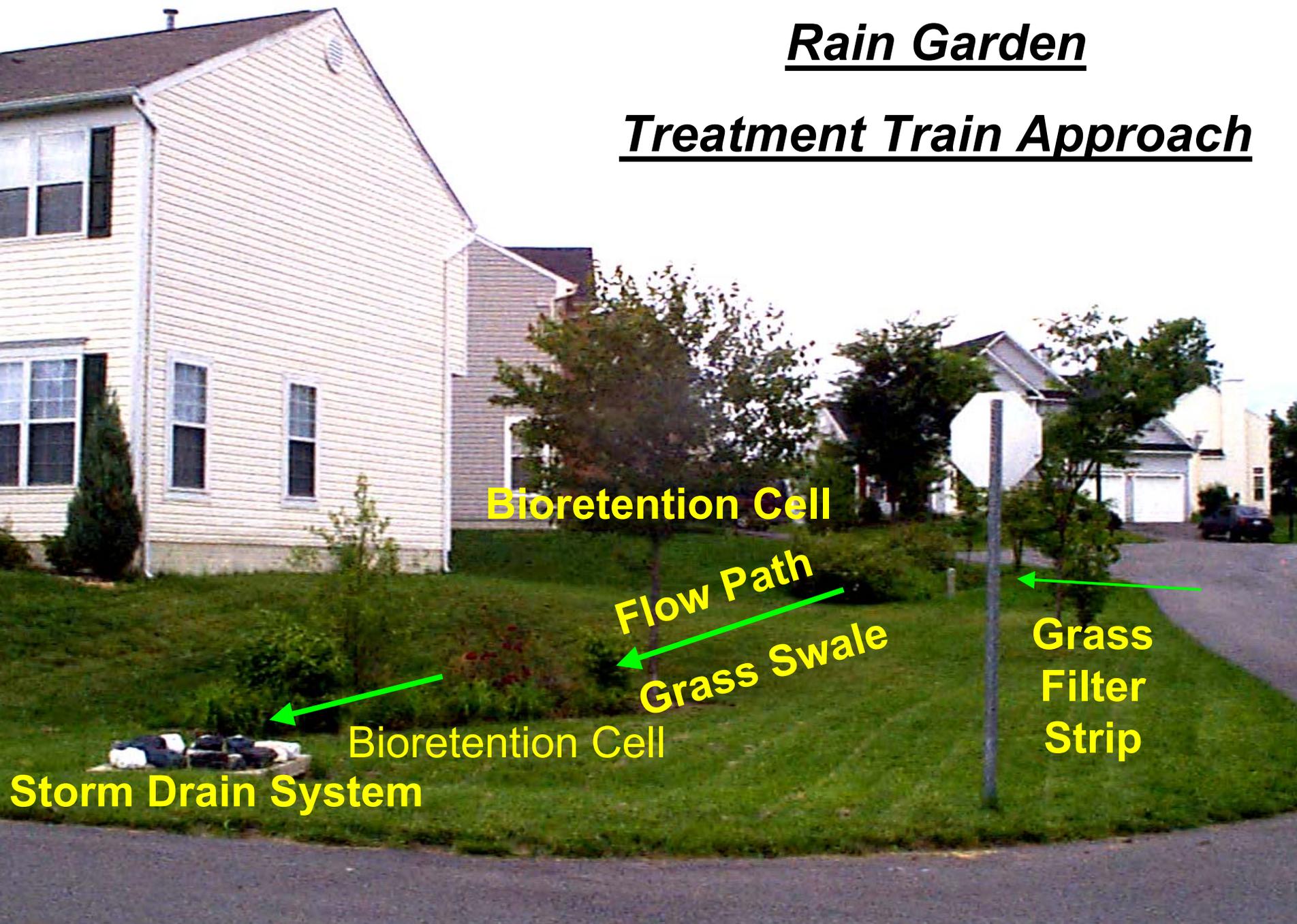


# Rain Gardens



*Typical Landscape Maintenance Practices*





# Rain Garden

## Treatment Train Approach

Bioretention Cell

Flow Path

Grass Swale

Grass Filter Strip

Bioretention Cell

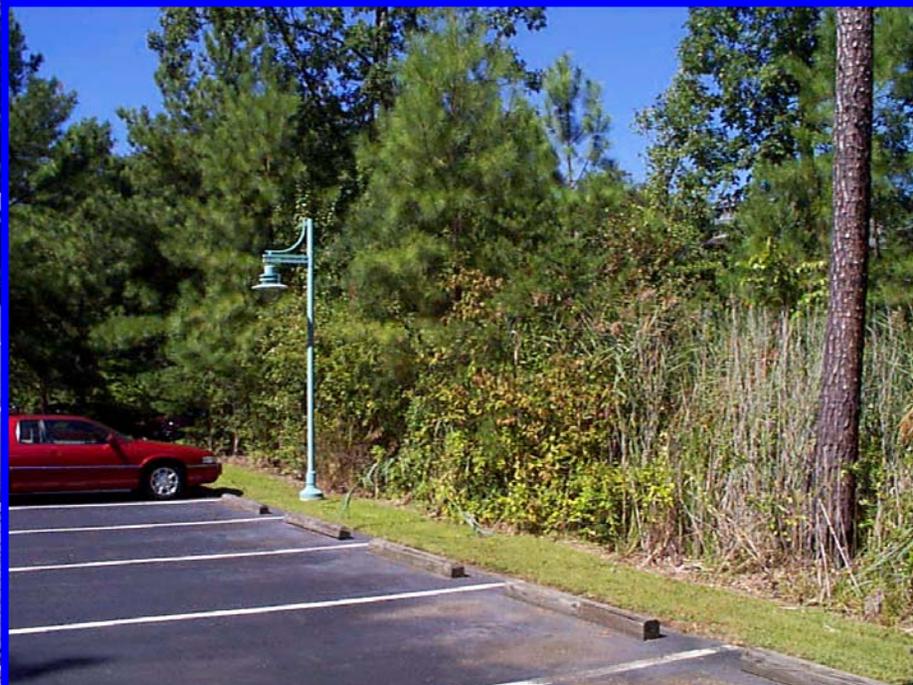
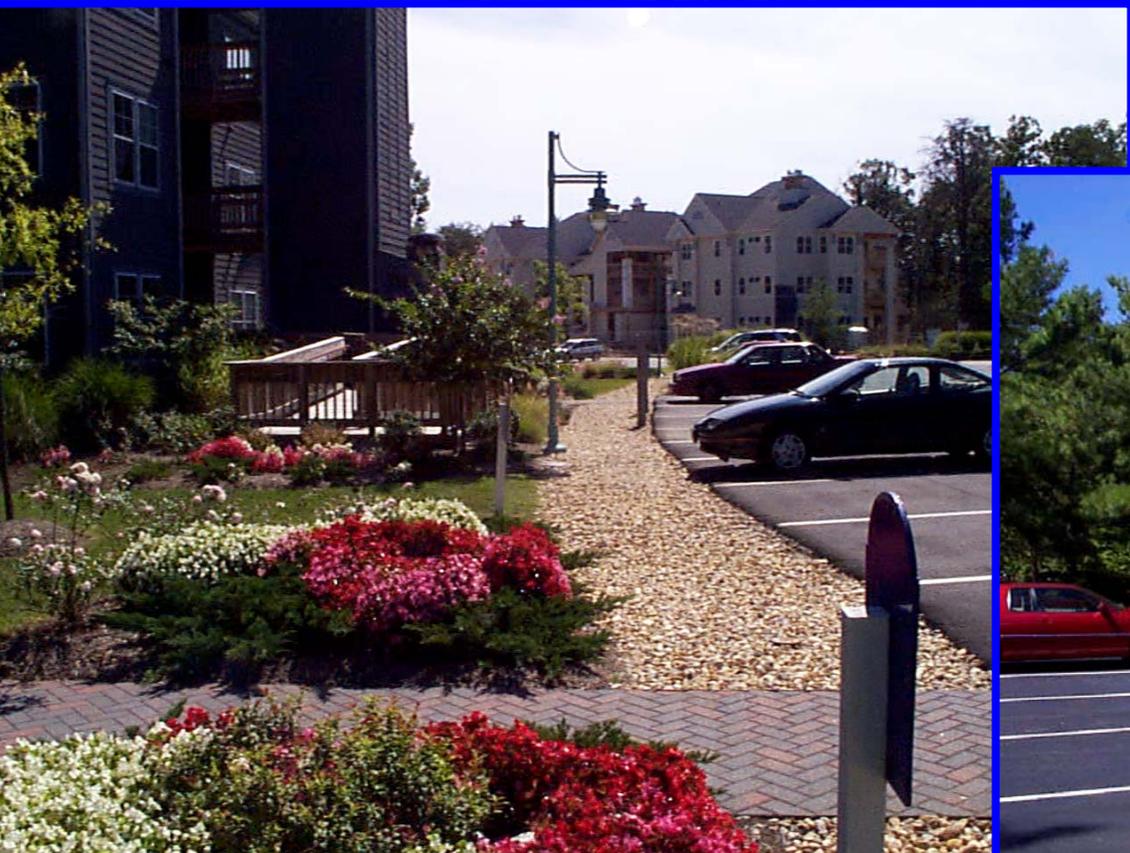
Storm Drain System



SPEED  
LIMIT  
25

# VIEW OF LOT WITH STORAGE AND BIORETENTION





**Rain  
Barrels**

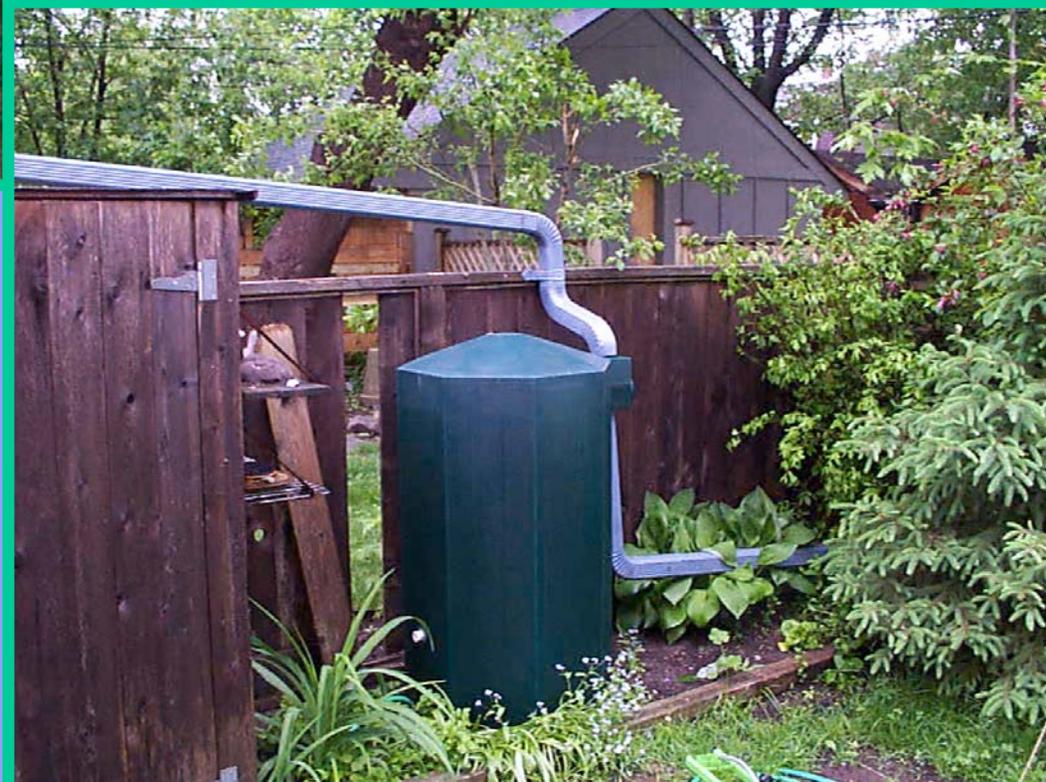


***Total Water  
Management***

***Runoff Use***

***Consumption  
Reduction***

***Save \$100 / yr.***





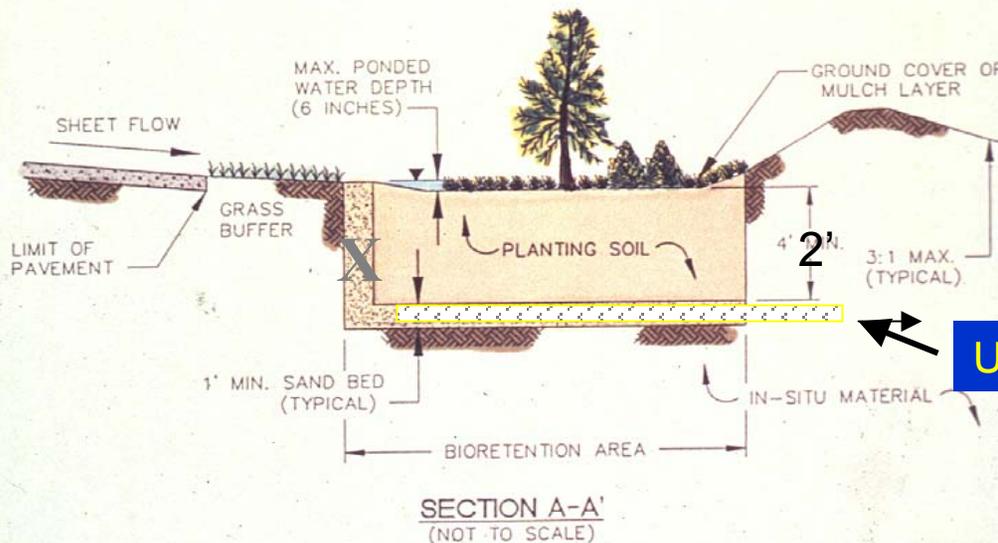
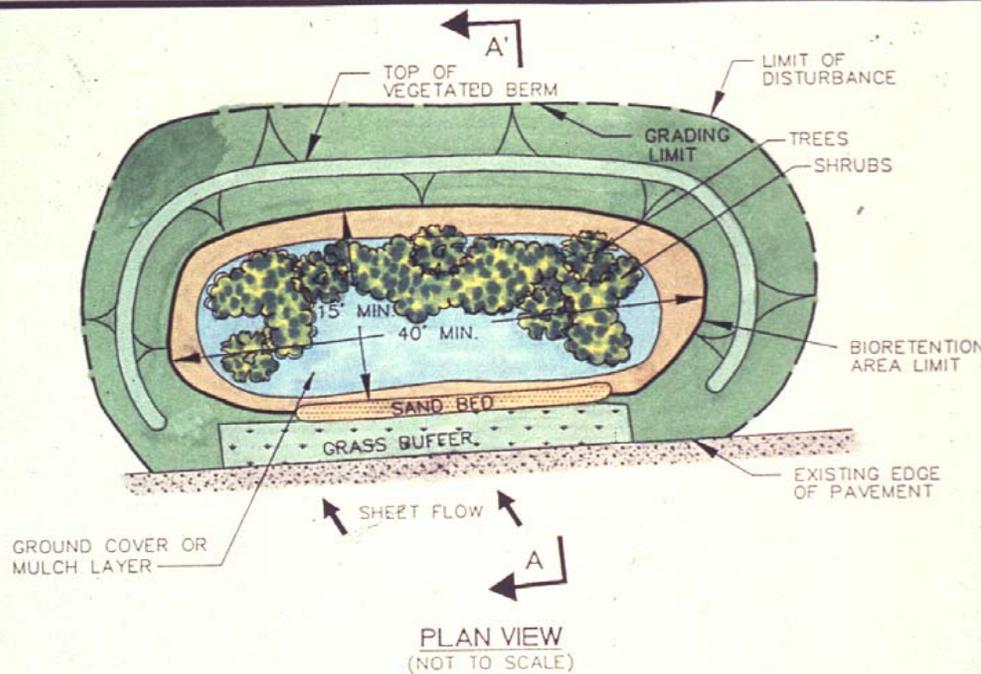
# What is Bioretention?

“Filtering stormwater runoff through a terrestrial aerobic (upland) plant / soil / microbe complex to remove pollutants through a variety of physical, chemical and biological processes.”

The word “bioretention” was derived from the fact that the biomass of the plant / microbe (flora and fauna) complex retains or uptakes many of the pollutants of concern such as N, P and heavy metals.

It is the optimization and combination of bioretention, biodegradation, physical and chemical that makes this system the most efficient of all BMP's

# Bioretention



PARKING EDGE AND PERIMETER WITHOUT CURB

- Shallow Ponding - 4" to 6"
- Soil Depth 2' - 2.5'
- Sandy Top Soil
  - 65% Sand
  - 20% Sandy Loam
  - 15% Compost
- Under Drain System
- Plant Selection

Under Drain

Aesthetic Value / Habitat Value

Property Value / Low Cost

Low Maintenance



# LID Practices (No Limit!)

“Creative Techniques to Treat, Use, Store, Retain, Detain and Recharge”

- Bioretention / Rain Gardens\*
- Strategic Grading\*
- Site Finger Printing
- Conservation\*
- Flatten Wider Swales
- Amended Soils\*
- Long Flow Paths
- Tree / Shrub Depression
- Turf Depression
- Landscape Island Storage
- Rooftop Detention /Retention
- Disconnection\*
- Parking Lot / Street Storage
- Smaller Culverts, Pipes & Inlets
- Alternative Surfaces
- Reduce Impervious Surface
- Surface Roughness Technology
- Rain Barrels / Cisterns / Water Use\*
- Catch Basins / Seepage Pits
- Sidewalk Storage
- Vegetative Swales, Buffers & Strips\*
- Infiltration Swales & Trenches
- Eliminate Curb and Gutter
- Shoulder Vegetation
- Maximize Sheet flow
- Maintain Drainage Patterns
- Reforestation.....
- Pollution Prevention.....

# Low-Impact Development Hydrologic Analysis and Design

- Based on NRCS technology, can be applied nationally
- Analysis components use same methods as NRCS
- Designed to meet both storm water quality and quantity requirements

# Urban Development

Washington D.C.

Potomac  
River

Anacostia  
River



# LID Urban Retrofit

“First Define Your Goals!”

Water Quality

Water Supply

Fisheries

Recreational Use

ESA

CSO

Flood Control

# Urban LID Lot Level Control Opportunities

- Roofs
- Buildings
- Down Spouts
- Yards
- Sidewalks
- Parking Lots
- Landscape Areas
- Open space
- Amended Soils

## *Multifunctional* *Infrastructure*

**Retention**

**Detention**

**Filtration**

**Infiltration**

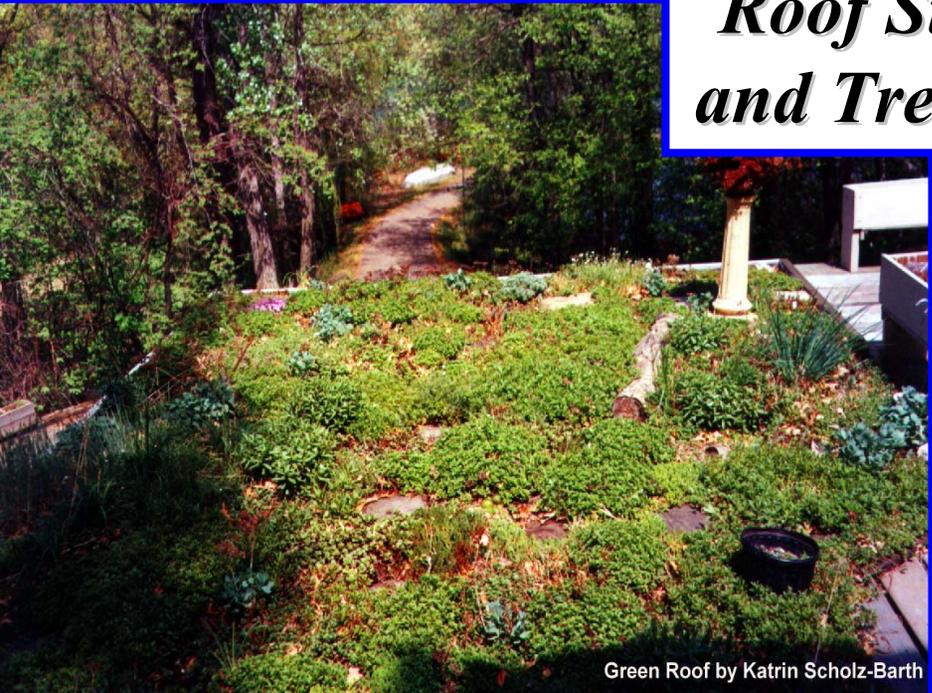
**Timing**

**Water Use**

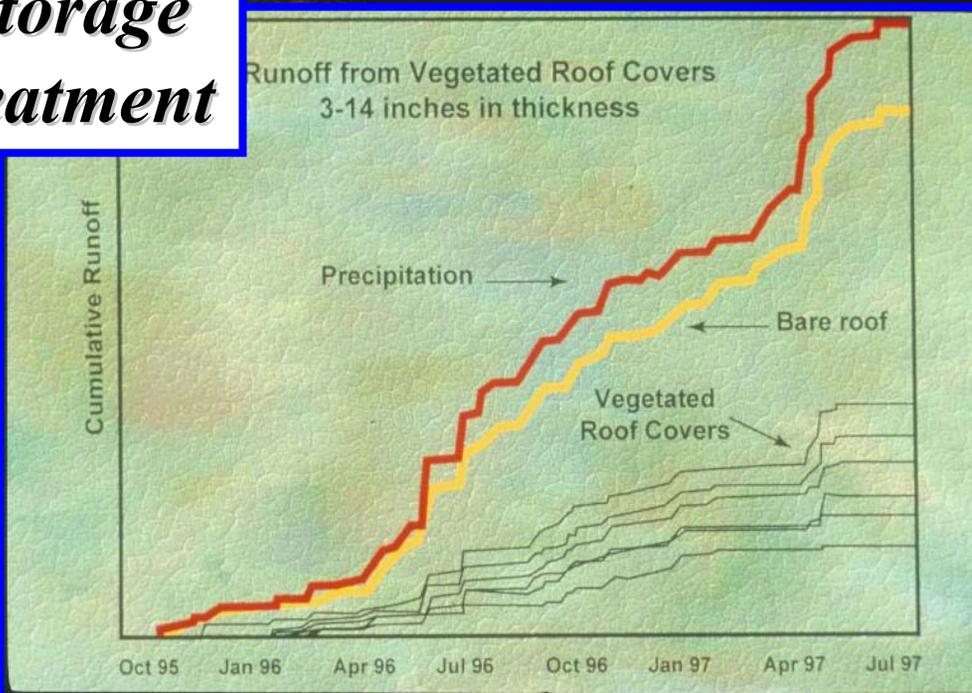
**Prevention**



# *Roof Storage and Treatment*



Green Roof by Katrin Scholz-Barth





**MAY 29 2001**

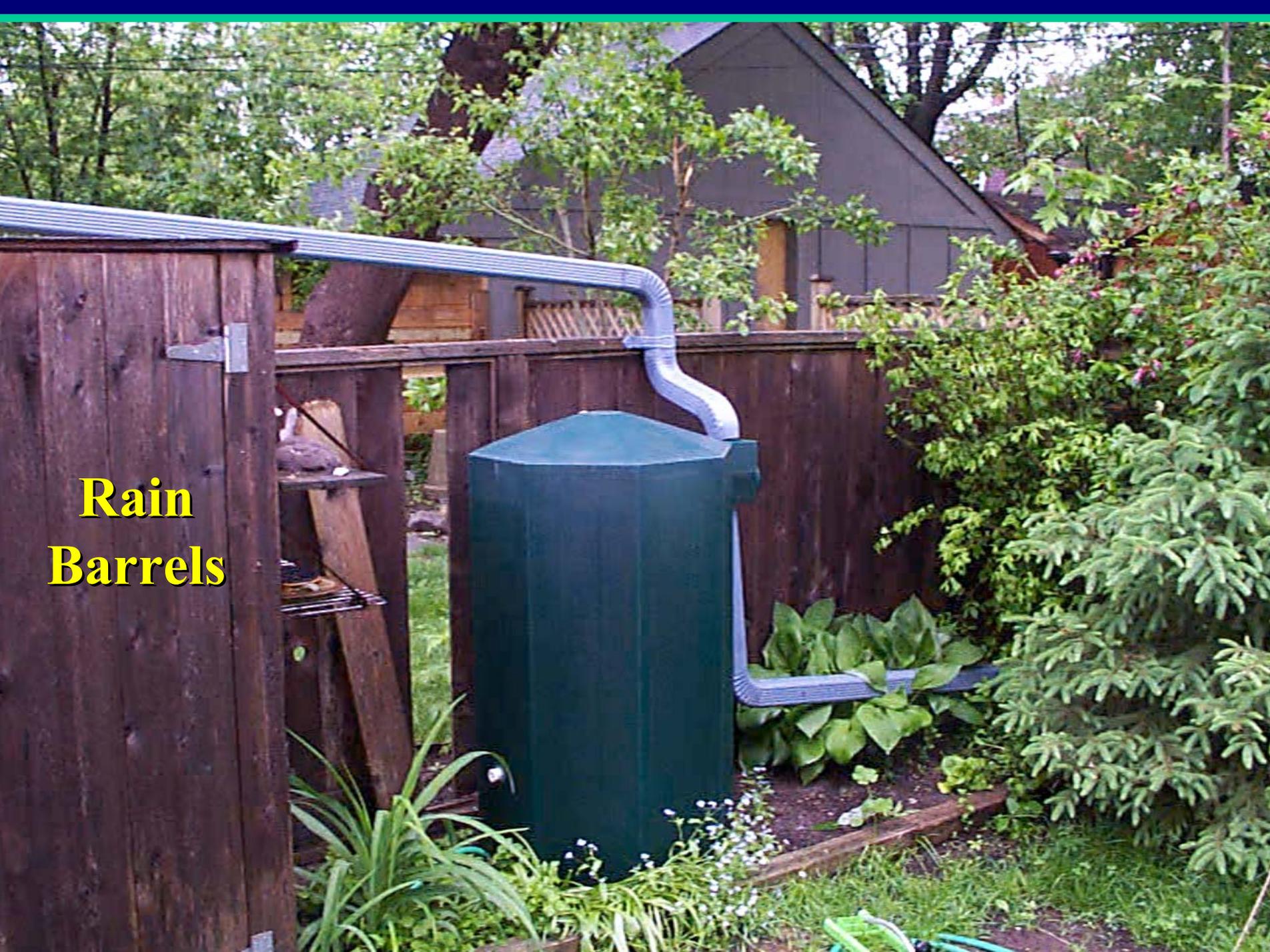
# *Buildings Design*



## *Downspouts Disconnect / Water Use*



# Rain Barrels





JUN 2 2001

Increasing  
Surface  
Area  
Urban  
Canopy

# Weep Wall Filter



NORTHWESTERN HIGH SCHOOL  
7000 ADELPHI ROAD

MYRTTETOWN, MARYLAND





**Buckman Heights courtyard with infiltration garden**

# Rain Gardens



MAY 21 2001





3923

CROSS THE BRIDGE TO WALK OFFICE

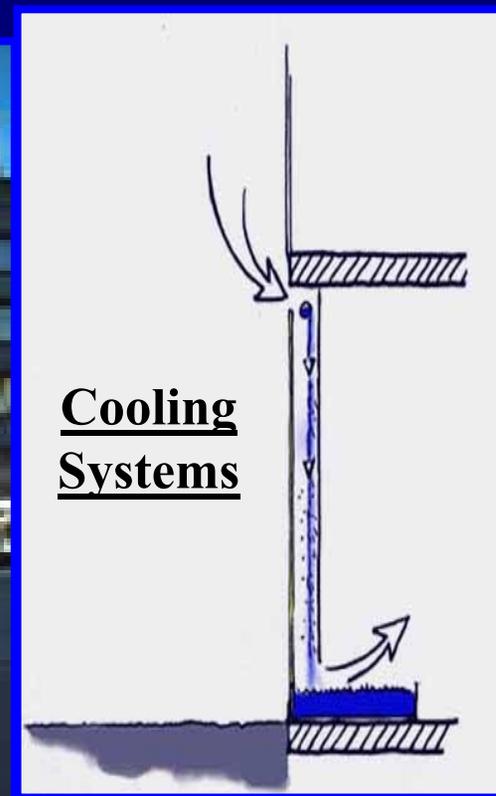
1990s sedan

2000s SUV

# Tree Shrub Box



# Runoff Use / Filter



**Herbert Dreiseitl - [www.dreiseitl.de](http://www.dreiseitl.de)**





*Runoff Use*

**Possibilities &  
Opportunities**

EMERGENCY  
VEHICLES  
ONLY

▲ Daily Parking  
Continental  
Holiday  
Northwest  
Park  
←  
Rental Car Return  
1233

# *Virginia*

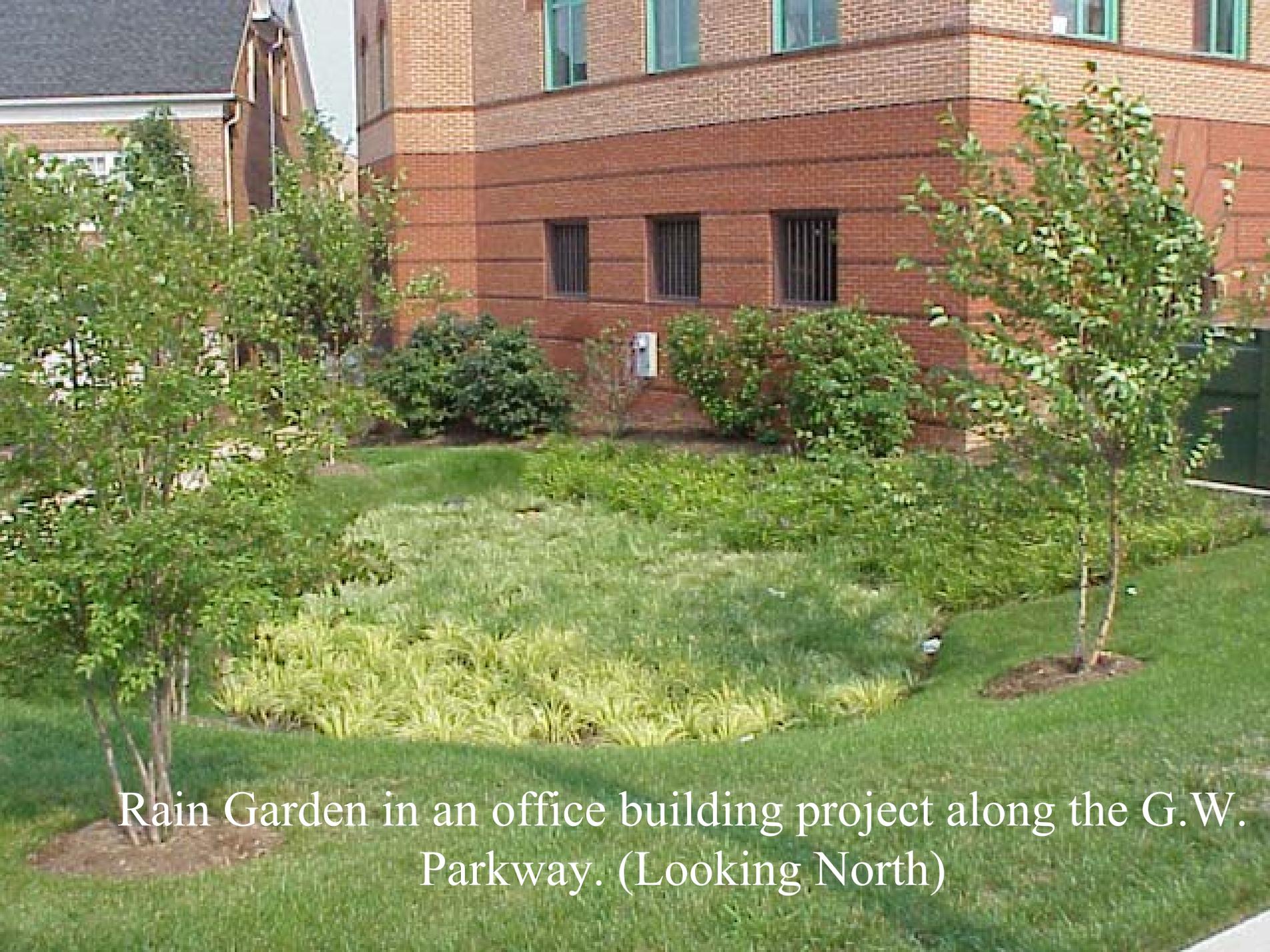
Examples of Bioretention  
and Rain Gardens

DEQ / DCR

Larry Gavan

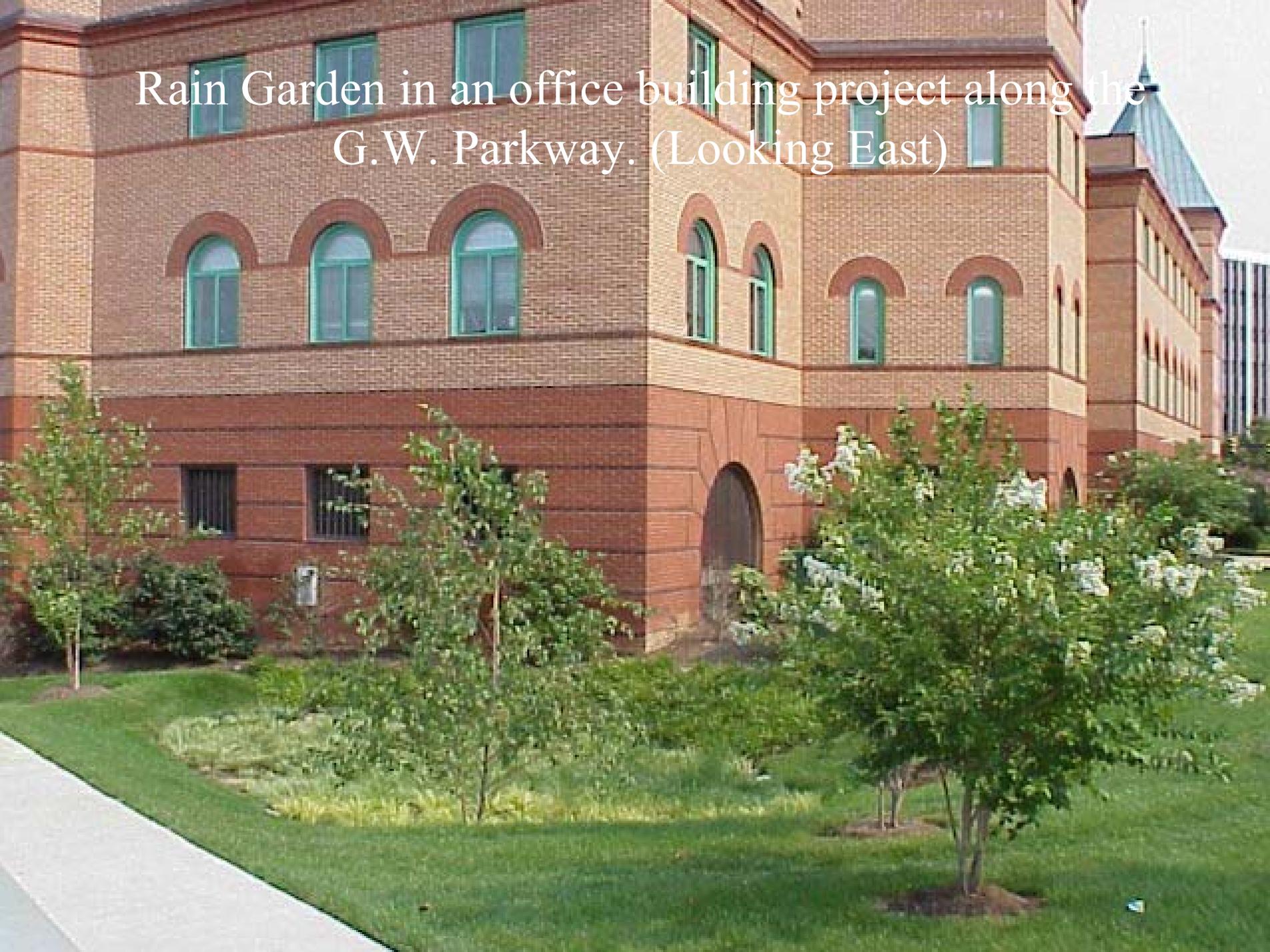
Rain Garden in an office building project along the G.W. Parkway. (Looking South.)





Rain Garden in an office building project along the G.W. Parkway. (Looking North)

Rain Garden in an office building project along the G.W. Parkway. (Looking East)



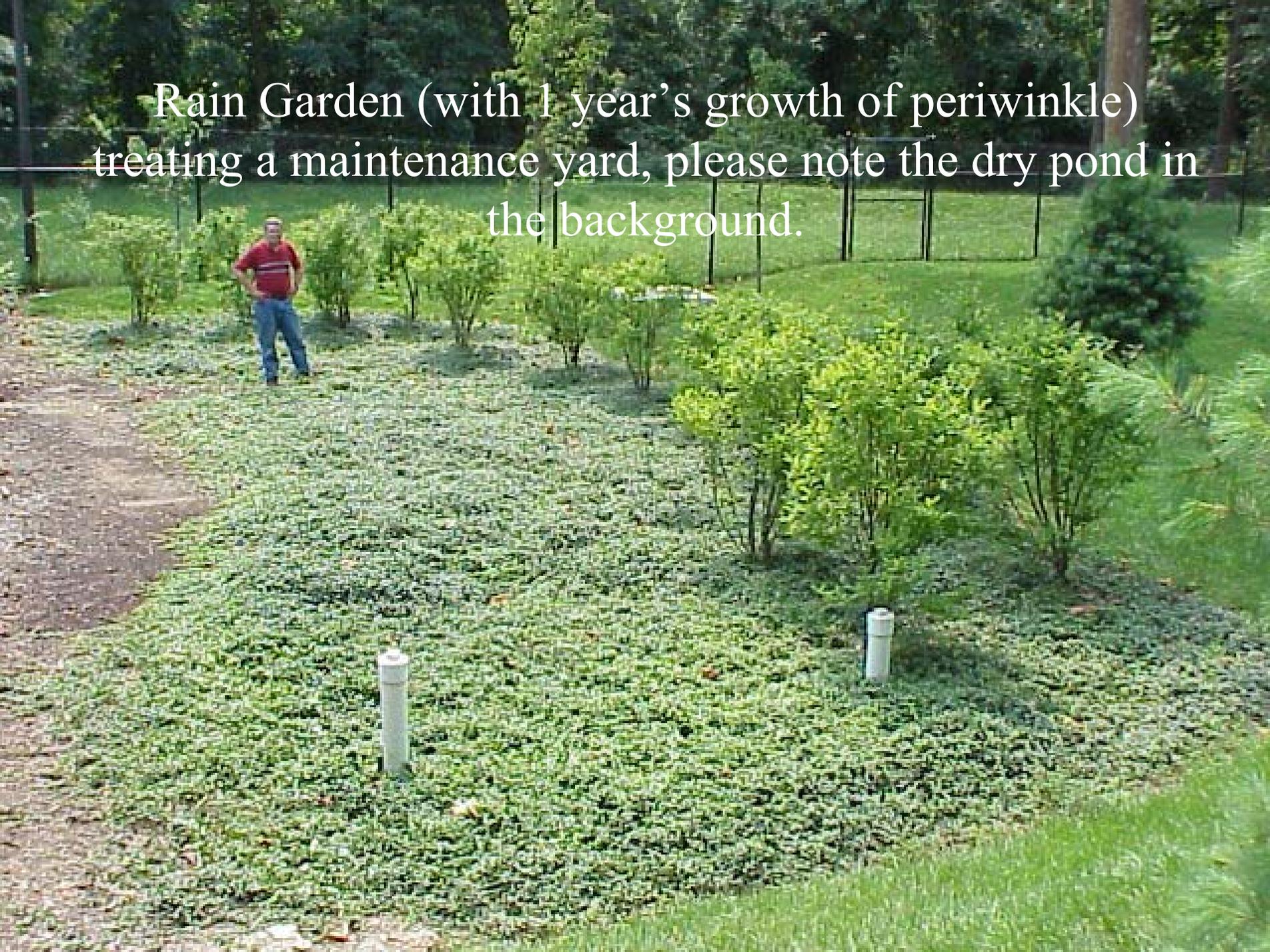


Rain Garden in a median strip of a townhouse project just inside the beltway. Please note the depressed curb and grate inlet structure,



Rain Garden on a commercial project with turf grass  
near I-395 and Edsall Road.

Rain Garden (with 1 year's growth of periwinkle) treating a maintenance yard, please note the dry pond in the background.





Rain Garden (in use) in the front yard of a town house project.



Grassed Swale leading to a Rain Garden in a commercial project.



The first Rain Garden in Virginia, located in a turning circle in front of St. Stephens School, Alexandria.



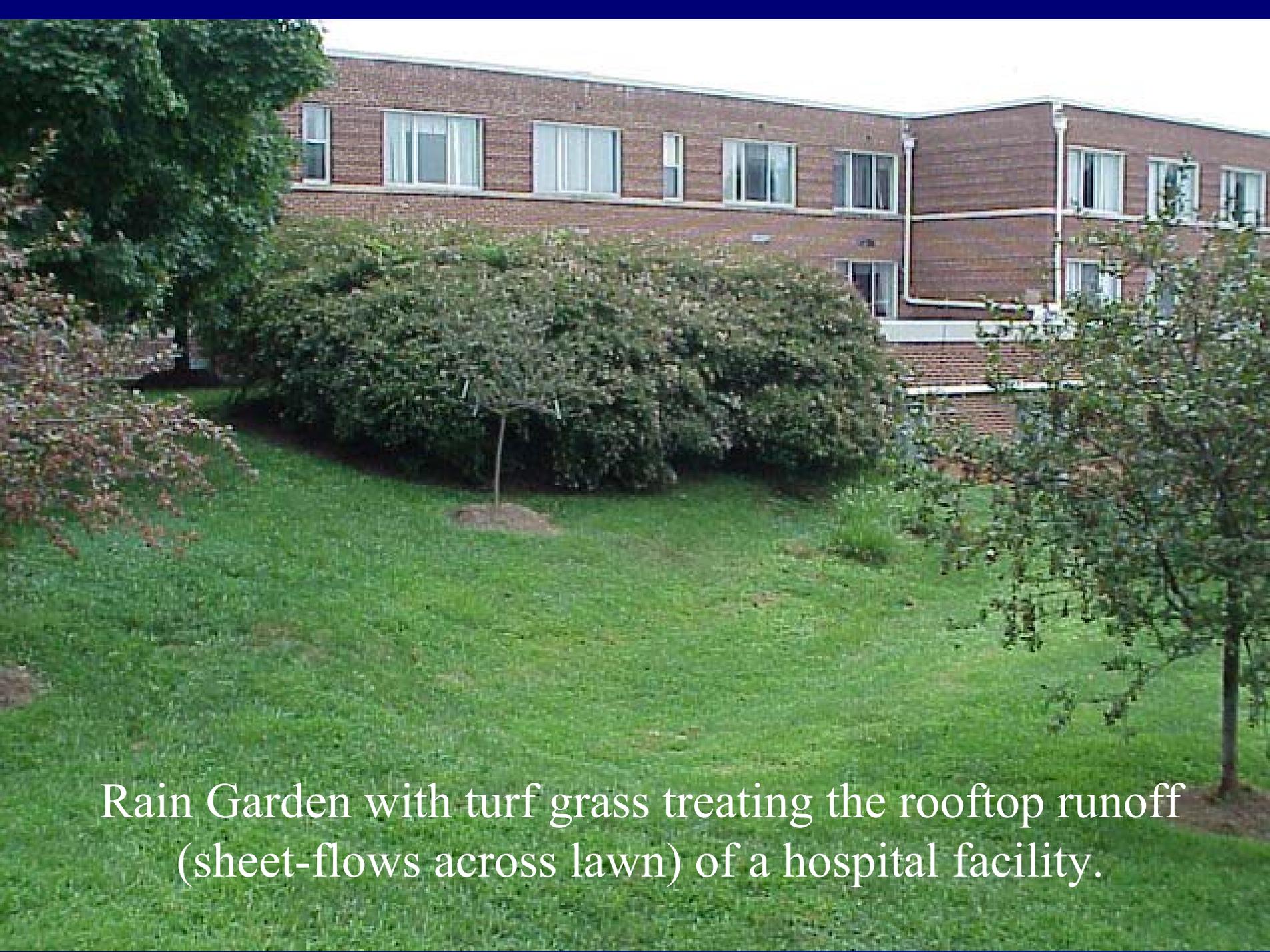
St. Stephens Rain Garden- 5 years later.



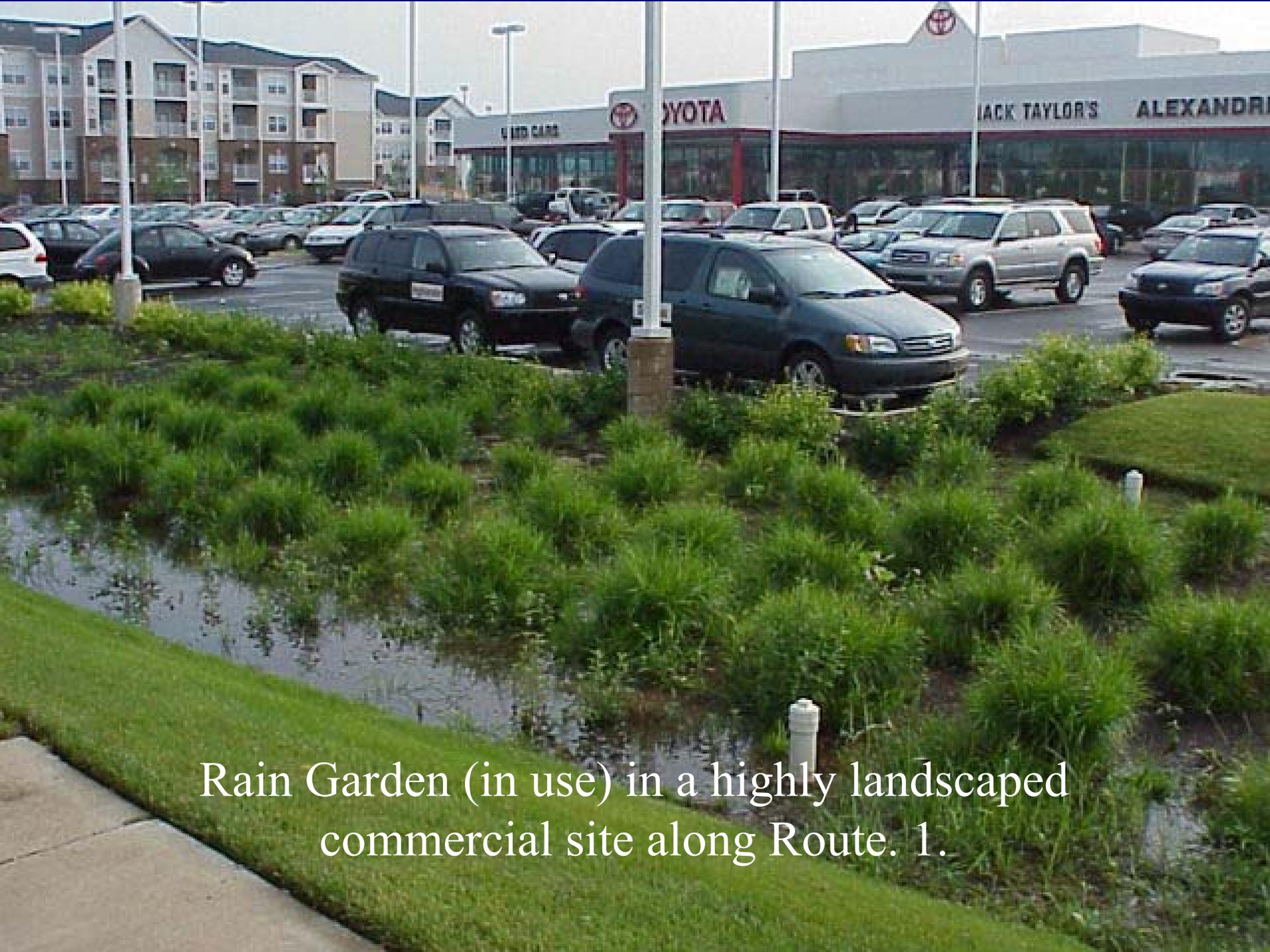
Rain Garden with turf grass alongside a parking lot in a highly urbanized area with an overflow device in the background.



Rain Garden (in use) located in the entrance median to a town house Project.



Rain Garden with turf grass treating the rooftop runoff (sheet-flows across lawn) of a hospital facility.



Rain Garden (in use) in a highly landscaped commercial site along Route. 1.

Rain Garden in the inter-space of a high density town house project.



Depressed Curb Inlet.



Rain Garden with trees, shrubs, inlet pipe and overflow device in a residential project.



Rain Garden with depressed curb and sidewalk.



Over 5 miles of Bio-filtration Swale at a large mixed use project.



Rain Garden with mixed plant layers treating a residential parking lot along a street-front.



Rain Gardens used through-out the Alexandria Central Library to treat all impervious runoff



Rain Gardens located in the parking lot medians, note the curb slots to permit surface flow to enter.



Longitudinal view of Rain Gardens in median strip with various plant layers.

Rain Garden longitudinal view showing overflow device.



Longitudinal view of Rain Gardens showing use of curb and grated inlets



Future: Make Low Impact  
Development a mainstream  
approach for land  
development in Virginia.

